

MESSAGE  
OF THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*A memorial of the legislature of Alabama, asking an extension of the time for the completion of certain railroads in said State.*

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APRIL 2, 1866.—Read, referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

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*To the Senate of the United States :*

I transmit to the Senate a memorial of the legislature of Alabama, asking an extension of time for the completion of certain railroads in said State.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March* 26, 1866.

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A JOINT MEMORIAL of the senate and house of representatives of the State of Alabama, in general assembly convened, to the Congress of the United States.

This memorial of the general assembly of the State of Alabama, to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, respectfully shows unto your honorable body, that by virtue of an act of the Congress of the United States, approved on the third day of June, 1856, "granting public lands in alternate sections to the State of Alabama to aid in the construction of certain railroads in said State," the trust reposed by which act being accepted by the State, and the necessary enactments of her general assembly made to carry out the objects of this liberal donation to encourage the railroads of the State, so as to make the same available on the terms of the grant, several of the roads embraced in the above-recited act, to wit: the Tennessee and Coosa Rivers railroad from Gunter's landing, on the Tennessee river, to Gadsden, on the Coosa river; the Wills Valley railroad, from Gadsden, through Wills and Lookout Valley, to Chattanooga; the Girard and Mobile railroad, from Girard to Mobile, Alabama; the Northeast and Southwest Alabama railroad, from near Gadsden to Meridian, Mississippi; the Coosa and Alabama railroad, from Selma to Gadsden, and the Central railroad, from Montgomery to some point on the Alabama and Tennessee State line, in the direction of Nashville, Tennessee, were commenced and being in regular process of construction, when all operations and work towards their completion were suspended by the late unfortunate civil war between the so-called Confederate States and the United States of America, and the said railroad corporations thereby prevented from complying with the terms of the grant as to the time of completion of their respective roads, which was to be within ten years from the passage of the act. Now, therefore, by reason of

this prevention, wholly unexpected and unavoidable on the part of these corporations, who, encouraged by this very liberal grant of the general government, had invested capital and expended time and labor in good faith for the prosecution of these great and important works of internal improvements, important to the United States as well as the State of Alabama, in enlarging the commercial resources, developing the mineral wealth of a common country, and strengthening the bonds of Union between the States, the general assembly of the State of Alabama do most respectfully ask of the Congress of the United States to extend to these railroad companies the time for completion of their roads five years from and after the 3d day of June, 1866. And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

*Resolved*, That the governor of this State furnish a copy of this memorial to the President of the United States, with a request that he will at an early day bring the same to the favorable notice of Congress.

Approved February 20, 1866.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, STATE OF ALABAMA.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of a joint memorial of the general assembly of the State of Alabama.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the State, at Montgomery, this the 23d day of February, A. D. 1866, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninetieth year.

[L. S.]

R. M. PATTON,  
*Governor of Alabama.*

By the governor :

ALBERT ELMORE,  
*Secretary of State.*